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## INDIANA TESTS INDIANA ALERT NETWORK

**Indianapolis** – The state of Indiana issued a test of the Indiana Alert Network (IAN) to promote the network's effectiveness in instantaneously communicating with government officials and key decision makers. The message, recorded by Lt. Governor Kathy Davis, served as a statewide test of the system and reached the network's 480 registered members.

The network allows for rapid dissemination of information, including potential threats, to members. The real-time information allows decision makers in both the public and private sectors to make determinations such as adjusting their security posture or allocating personnel to respond, if necessary.

"Keeping Hoosiers safe and secure remains our top priority," said Lt. Gov. Davis, who chairs the state's Counter-Terrorism and Security Council (CTASC). "Through IAN, we are taking our homeland security efforts to the next level, and helping get vital information into the hands of people who can use it in a time of need."

IAN is part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Homeland Security Information Network-Critical Infrastructure (HSIN-CI) pilot program. Indiana is the only state to participate as a pilot site.

"Being able to provide officials in the public and private sectors important information in the event of crisis can help save precious time and direct resources effectively," said Earl Morgan, Director of the Indiana Counter-Terrorism and Security Council. "We are pleased with the test and hope to continue to increase the network's membership."

The network's Infrastructure Advisory Panel is responsible for promoting the program, recruiting members, managing the network and assigning "gatekeepers" to assist in disseminating information. Currently, there are 16 members on the panel representing areas such as public safety, telecommunications, agriculture and shipping.

National Program Manager for HSIN-CI, Art Fierro, was on hand for the test.

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"Homeland security is no longer solely law enforcement's responsibility, but necessitates a collaborative effort among citizens, corporations and the government at all levels," said Fierro. "The Indiana Alert Network, part of the Department of Homeland Security's HSIN, provides for the involvement and equities of all parties interested in assisting with the homeland security effort."

Registered members of the network receive notifications via standard communication devices, including wired and wireless telephones, e-mail, facsimiles and text pagers. Upon registering, a member designates their preferred means of contact.

CTASC, with the assistance of the Indiana Information Technology Oversight Commission, administers the program in Indiana. For more information on the IAN, visit <a href="https://www.ian.in.gov">www.ian.in.gov</a>.

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